

October 9, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW, 7th floor  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We, the undersigned bipartisan U.S. Mayors, write to urgently call for U.S. leadership in stopping the current conflict in the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region. As proud representatives of Armenian American communities across our country, we share their deep concerns about the violence being inflicted upon Artsakh, the growing number of civilian casualties, and the involvement of regional actors like Turkey and Iran.

We believe in the power of America's role as a force for security and peace across the globe, and this is a moment to act decisively. Only rigorous and sustained diplomacy from the United States, alongside key partners abroad, can ratchet down current tensions; answer the latest increase in hostilities, which has involved armed drones and long-range rocket artillery; and prevent a dangerous escalation into an even larger regional conflict.

As Secretary of State, we ask that you lead the effort to bring Armenia and Azerbaijan back to the negotiating table, and persuade Turkey to disengage. There are credible reports of Turkey paying Syrian mercenaries to fight in Artsakh as well as American-made F-16s sold to Turkey flying in Armenian airspace.

The United States must use its role as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, with France and Russia, to go beyond statements and exhaust all diplomatic tools, deploying senior American diplomats to immediately secure a ceasefire. We also call on you to publicly support H.Res.1165, a bipartisan resolution introduced by Reps. Jackie Speier, Adam Schiff, and the Congressional Armenian Caucus that condemns Azerbaijan's attack on Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and denounces Turkey's participation and escalation of this offensive.

Each year in our cities, we honor the 1.5 million lives stolen in the Armenian Genocide. We recall the horrors of the past so we will not repeat them. We remember Armenia's proud history as an early crossroads of Christian faith, theology, and thought. We

reaffirm our commitment to peace, and we share the fierce determination of the Armenian people to build a better, brighter, safer future in their new democracy.

Our cities will continue to stand with the Armenian people and the Armenian diaspora in our communities. We hope you will fully support this bipartisan resolution and we stand ready to discuss this important matter in greater detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles, CA  
Mayor Francis Suarez, City of Miami, FL  
Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno, CA  
Mayor Aaron Stephens, City of East Lansing, MI  
Mayor Terry Tornek, City of Pasadena, CA  
Mayor Jorge Elorza, City of Providence, RI  
Mayor Vrej Agajanian, City of Glendale, CA  
Mayor Steven Grant, City of Boynton Beach, FL

CC:

Senator James E. Risch (R-ID)), Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate

Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY), Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
United States House of Representatives

Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX), Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
United States House of Representatives

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Co-Chair, Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States House of Representatives

Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Co-Chair, Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States House of Representatives

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA), Co-Chair, Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States House of Representatives

Congressman Peter King (R-NY), Vice Chair, Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States House of Representatives

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-NY), Vice Chair, Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States House of Representatives